

Africo-American Presbyterian

"AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."—John viii:32

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WHITE CITIZENS OF CHATTANOOGA PAY TRIBUTE TO THE REV. JESSE B. BARBER

(The Chattanooga Times, Nov. 9)

Speakers representing a cross-section of Chattanooga's citizenship yesterday afternoon lauded the Rev. J. B. Barber, pastor of the Leonard Street colored Presbyterian church, and hailed his ten years as a Chattanooga minister as a factor in the civic, religious and social life of the city, which has had deep significance upon the relations between the races.

The ceremonies were held in the Rev. Barber's West Tenth street church, where ten years ago he came to a post which has come to rank as one of the city's most important Negro churches. The meeting was sponsored by white citizens who have worked with the minister for the past decade in an effort to improve racial relations in Chattanooga. The Rev. Barber has served as chairman of the interracial commission.

The commission's chairman, former Mayor T. C. Thompson, son of a Confederate army officer who was an adviser to Jefferson Davis, sounded the keynote at the gathering.

"A meeting of this kind could not have happened in Chattanooga ten years ago," the former mayor declared in paying tribute to the Rev. Barber's work. "Chattanooga," he continued, "today is looked upon as a community having better relations between the races than any other city in the South. The Negro must have better playgrounds, better schools, better housing facilities and better health. His life and property must be protected. The Negro has asked us to co-operate and work with him."

He referred to Dr. Barber as "my friend and a friend of mankind."

"Dr. Barber is broad in vision, wise in counsel and untiring in his work," the former mayor asserted. "I rejoice in his fellowship and lean upon him for counsel."

The subjects embraced in the discussions of the speakers covered a wide range. Housing facilities for the Negro in Chattanooga brought shafts of criticism of the property owners from a number of the speakers. Prof. R. A. Kilburn, of the sociology department of the University of Chattanooga, and J. Charles Poe, executive editor of the Chattanooga News, perhaps were most caustic in their criticisms of the property owners.

"Brother Barber, I wish we could promise you better housing facilities, but we can't," the university professor declared. "We are struggling against powers that rest in the vested interests—in the property owners. As long as selfish interests find comfort in buying and selling of property, of receiving the increment from property, we cannot better the housing conditions."

"As long as we allow Negro rentals to exist as they are now, there is no use in promising Dr. Barber that housing facilities can be bettered. I wish we could make the promise, but until we start living for the betterment of mankind, instead of living for the betterment of the pocketbook, we will not have better housing facilities in Chattanooga." He referred to the Rev. Barber as the "Shepherd of his flock, a leader of his people." Dr. Kilburn, during the past two or three years, conducted a housing survey of Chattanooga.

Mr. Poe, speaking on land planning, said the South has little in prospect "until we have a change of heart."

"The South is on the road to peasantry," predicted the newspaper editor. "I hope I have made it alarming enough. Negro schooling in the South, he said, is negligible, and in the southland there still "flits that ghastly spectre of the old plan-

tation and King Cotton." Tenant farming and share cropping, he declared, are "leading to the deterioration of not only the soil, but the Negro." Poe said that if the white man keeps the Negro down, of necessity the white man must fall with him. He recommended a program of making easier for the people land ownership, "and when I say people I mean white and colored." The Negro, he said, should be encouraged, rather than prohibited, to grow crops which would make him economically independent, rather than "in debt to the landlord at the end of each crop."

Commissioner Eugene Bryan lauded the Negro minister and declared that "it is people like your minister here and you who control the underworld."

"If it was not for the ministers and churchgoing people of Chattanooga, we could add 5,000 men to the police force and then be unable to control the underworld," Commissioner Bryan declared. "Crime is like filth, it breeds in the dark places. The ministers and churchgoing citizens rout the filth of crime from the alleys and dark places." The city official said he came to the meeting "as a private citizen and as acting mayor of Chattanooga to pay tribute to an outstanding man of Chattanooga."

"There must be some sent to the electric chair and I am not blood-thirsty," the commissioner asserted.

Resume of Work Given

Mrs. Blanche Eisendrath gave a resume of the colored minister's work in Chattanooga and said she had arrived at the conclusion that "he is not one person, he is an institution." She praised his work at the Newton center and said the many activities he carries on mark him as a "pre-eminent leader."

The Rev. Dr. Lin D. Cartwright, pastor of the First Christian church, and the Rev. Dr. T. B. Cowan, pastor of the Third Presbyterian church, both paid glowing tributes to the Negro minister. Dr. Cartwright said he knew of no event "which has gladdened my heart more than the opportunity to come here today and speak praise of this fine Christian man." Dr. Cowan said the Presbyterian church is proud to hail the Rev. Barber and told the audience the Negro minister is welcomed in the church organization.

Cartwright referred to Barber as a man of "fine culture, a rare sense of humility and dependability."

Joe Dobbs, president of the Chattanooga Central Labor Union, said the Rev. Barber is a "true friend to organized labor." Organized labor, he said, during the past few months has increased the colored membership to 500 and said the protection of the rights of the working people lies in "organization so we can bargain collectively with our employers without interference." In that way, he continued, "we can have a better life."

Commissioner R. M. Cooke, of the parks and playgrounds department, too ill to attend the meeting, sent Ed Hargraves, director of recreation. Mr. Hargraves said the Rev. Barber had been of considerable help to the department in its recreation program, and welcomes his future help. The department, he said, "is working and scheming" for a better recreation program for both colored and white in Chattanooga. The swimming pool project at Lincoln park has been approved by local authorities and forwarded to the works progress administration for final approval, he announced.

Program Outlined

A. M. Pennybacker, secretary of the Chattanooga Young

Men's Christian Association, outlined a program for betterment of the colored race in this city, which, he said, has been approved by an interested group.

The program he outlined was better library facilities, better recreation facilities (gymnasiums in the schools of the thickly populated colored sections and of playgrounds), swimming pool at Lincoln park, adequate hospital facilities, religious leadership training, crime abatement, better housing facilities and better streets, a colored camp and camping facilities, good-will and racial understanding.

W. G. Foster, speaking on press relations, said the newspapers of Chattanooga are anxious to co-operate with the Negro in betterment of relations. Publicity, he held, is a strong deterrent to crime. Many fear to commit crime, he said, because they fear publicity.

Estes Kefauver, attorney, said that enough laws have been enacted to protect the Negro and pointed out that he has the right to vote, to own property and have it protected. The attorney, however, said the administration of the law is not always for the benefit of the colored man. He urged the Negro to use his ballot to a better advantage and declared that too often the white and colored permit their vote to be influenced by ulterior forces. The white people who compose the juries should be educated to the necessity of dealing with Negro criminals, when they commit the offenses against members of their own race, in the most stern manner, he declared.

Commissioner T. H. McMillan, of the city schools department, discussing municipal program, said the school is the agency through which crime, disease and other sinister forces are combated.

R. C. Reynolds presided at the meeting and introduced the speakers. Rev. Barber acknowledged the tributes which were paid him. He is happy, he said, that the group which met to honor him "have been courageous enough to rise above the barrier of racial difference." The membership of his church, the Rev. Barber declared, "is glorious in its fidelity—the Negro people of Chattanooga are my friends."

MICHIGAN AVE. BRANCH Y. M. C. A., BUFFALO, N. Y.

The Michigan Avenue Y. M. C. A.'s Campaign for 1936 is over and it was a success! There is a deep sense of gratitude and appreciation in the hearts of those in the leadership of the Campaign to every one who helped in achieving the victory we enjoy. We went out for \$3000.00, and on Monday night \$3393.00 were reported. This means, as usual, that Michigan Avenue is over the top with a comfortable margin to spare.

Personally, I am grateful for the privilege of again being the General Chairman of our Campaign. I hereby express my heartfelt thanks to Mr. Herbert T. Miller, our Campaign Director; Mr. Wm. H. Jackson, Executive Secretary; Mr. W. H. Jones, Chairman of Committee of Management; Mr. Mitchell Miles, Chairman of Special Gifts Committee; all the division leaders and every worker who co-operated to make victory a realized fact in just 10 days of intensive campaigning.

There are certain inescapable impressions one must have regarding the Campaign at Michigan Avenue "Y." First, to obtain such a splendid corps of workers as we had means there are those who are so interested in our "Y" that they are willing to enter into sacrificial service for it. Secondly, it means that there is a discriminating sense of appreciation of the program and service of the "Y" in our community, evidenced by the hearty support given the Campaign to the tune of \$3393.

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BISHOP WILBUR P. THIRKIELD

BY DR. KELLY MILLER

Dr. Thirkield belongs to the later half of the generation of philanthropists who came South on the wave of enthusiasm for humanity which swept over the nation immediately after the Civil War. When he heard the call in 1883 to go to Atlanta as founder of the Gammon Theological Seminary, Presidents Ware of Atlanta, Tupper of Shaw, Cravath of Fisk, Howard of Howard, Rendall of Lincoln, Mattoon of Biddle and Armstrong of Hampton had already been working in the missionary field for a decade and a half, and had founded the principal Negro colleges and universities for the higher education of the Negro race. When Thirkield entered the missionary arena in 1883 the wave of enthusiasm had reached its crest and was perhaps beginning to recede.

An Iowa farmer and merchant donated a quarter of a million dollars to the Methodist Episcopal Church to found at Atlanta an institution for the education of Negro ministers which was to bear the name of the donor and to be known as Gammon Theological Seminary. Rev. Thirkield, then a young man bubbling with enthusiasm and missionary zeal, was put in charge of this educational and religious enterprise. He threw into the work the fullest measure of enthusiasm, consecration and devotion of which his ardent nature was capable. He gathered around him men of cognate spirit, consecrated to the uplift and reclamation of the Negro race through an educated Christian ministry. Candidates for the ministry, under the persuasion of President Thirkield, flocked to this new institution. Gammon Theological Seminary was then, and still is, the only well endowed institution for the preparation of Negro ministers. The young men who were brought into close contact with Dr. Thirkield's highly surcharged personality quickly caught a full measure of his enthusiasm and spirit. In a few years Gammon Theological Seminary turned out perhaps the most remarkable group of Negro ministers to be found in any of our denominations.

Dr. M. C. B. Mason, Secretary of the Freedmen's Aid Society; Dr. Pzavious O'Connor, Dean of Morgan College; Dr. C. N. Grandison, the most eloquent of them all, whose untimely dropping out was a tragic calamity; Dr. Ernest Lyon, ex-Minister to Liberia; and Bishop Robert E. Jones are but samples of the fruit of Dr. Thirkield's early labors. Six Bishops of the several Methodist denominations are attributable to his influence and power as an educator and inspirer of men.

When Gammon had reached its zenith, Dr. Thirkield became Secretary of the Freedmen's Aid Society in charge of the educational work of the Methodist Episcopal Church among Negroes throughout the country. After serving efficiently in this capacity for a number of years he accepted the call to become President of Howard University, the premier institution for higher education of the Negro, located at the National Capital.

At the time he took charge of Howard, the cause of higher education had reached the low water mark in the mind of the philanthropic public. Industrial education, as symbolized by Hampton and Tuskegee, had all but monopolized the field. Atlanta, Fisk, and Howard were thriving as a root out of dry ground, and living at a poor, dying rate. Dr. Thirkield threw into this field the full measure of his well known enthusiasm and ardor and gave to Howard University a newness of life. I was Dean of the College throughout his administration,

and can speak with authority of the intensity of his devotion and the abundant success which was brought to Howard under his administration. Up to that time, the college was based on the admission requirement of Latin, Greek and mathematics after the traditional plan of the old New England Academy. He shifted the admission basis to the modern high school curriculum upon which the subsequent growth and expansion of the college has since been based.

In 1879 Congress appropriated \$10,000 for maintenance and instruction of Howard University. This initial appropriation has been increased year by year until now it has reached over a million dollars. But until the coming of Dr. Thirkield, the Government never had been known to contribute a building to a private institution of any kind, type or character. With unheard of audacity, Dr. Thirkield asked Congress to appropriate \$100,000 for a new science building. At the time I conferred with Dr. Booker T. Washington, who was the world's greatest expert on contributions for the cause of Negro education. He was of the opinion that such a proposition was utterly impossible as it was contrary to the history and policy of the Federal Government to contribute buildings to private institutions. But Dr. Thirkield accomplished the impossible. Thirkield Science Hall, which adorns the campus of the university, is a living monument to his audacity. This building might well be called "Thirkield's Miracle." He also secured from the government an engineering building and a modern heating plant.

Under the last two administrations the Federal Government has placed on the Howard campus buildings to the amount of three or four millions of dollars. But all of these are based upon the foundation which Dr. Thirkield laid.

An account of President Thirkield's administration of Howard would not be complete without mentioning the fact that on the 40th anniversary of this institution, he brought to the platform perhaps the greatest aggregation of celebrities that has ever appeared, at once, on the rostrum of any institution in America, including President Theodore Roosevelt, Ambassador James Bryce, the author of "The American Commonwealth"; Andrew Carnegie, the world famous philanthropist; Dr. William T. Harris, the philosophic Commissioner of Education; the Hon. James A. Garfield, Secretary of the Interior, and son of President Garfield.

Dr. Thirkield's devotion to the high standard of education may be judged from the fact that he brought to the institution such men as Dr. E. E. Just, who has gained world recognition in the field of biological research, and Dr. Alain Leroy Locke, the only Negro Rhodes scholar.

Dr. Thirkield, impelled by the ambition of every Methodist preacher to become a Prince of his Church, resigned the presidency of Howard University to become a Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, where he spent the last twelve years of his active life. Though as Bishop he was a General Superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal Church at large, nevertheless, he considered himself, and was regarded, as the special champion of the Negro membership in this great denomination. He was active in securing the election of three Negro Bishops, with full status as Princes of the Church.

Bishop Thirkield was the last of the great missionaries who gave themselves with detached consecration and devotion for the uplift and redemption of the Negro race.

THE REV. THOMAS B. HARGRAVE, SR., PASSES TO HIS REWARD

"Servant of God, well done" were the words that marked the close of the eventful life of sacrifice and service of the Rev. T. B. Hargrave, retired minister of the Presbyterian Church.

The Rev. Mr. Hargrave was born in Lexington, N. C., in 1847 and departed this life Nov. 11, 1936. He attended Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and was the oldest living graduate. He was graduated in the year 1877. The Rev. Mr. Hargrave was a pioneer, having done much to establish the church in North Carolina in the early days. He held pastorates at Carthage, Cameron, Laurinburg and Mt. Airy, and after 31 years of sacrificial service he retired in 1908. He moved his family to Cincinnati where his children could receive better opportunities and early school advantages. Although he lived in a distant State he never lost sight of the value of our Christian schools and his children all attended our Presbyterian schools in the South: Johnson C. Smith, Barber-Scotia, and Margaret Barber. The family is active in the religious and civic life of the city and the Rev. Mr. Hargrave was recognized for his contribution in service and Christian life. Paul Sullivan of the WLW radio news room, who is an acquaintance of the family, was the first to call and he gave a brief resume of his life. John Acklemire, of the Cincinnati Post, and also the Inquirer carried articles on the life of this humble saint.

Funeral Service

The funeral service was held at the Carmel Presbyterian church, the Rev. J. T. Douglas, pastor. Dr. Earl R. North, Executive Secretary of the Cincinnati Presbytery, led in the invocation. The hymn, "He That Goeth Forth and Weepeth" led by Mr. Matthews, was sung by the choir. His favorite Bible passages were read by the Rev. Dr. D. D. Turpeau, Dist. Supt. of the Lexington Conference of the M.E. Church. The Rev. Mr. Douglas made remarks. Rev. Samuel Isa, of the Ohio State University and a former pastor, made remarks. The choir then sang "Stand Up and Bless the Lord." The Rev. Army, a close friend, made the prayer. The pipe organ softly sent forth the Rev. Mr. Hargrave's favorite hymns as the body was committed at the church.

Active Pallbearers

The officers of the church acted as pallbearers as follows: W. C. Weatherly, Chester Dix, Robert Williams, Taylor Blaff, Edgar Gibson and Travis Dinsmore.

Honorary Pallbearers

The honorary pallbearers were as follows: Father Oxley, St. Andrews Episcopal church; the Rev. L. W. Gray, Bethel Baptist church; the Rev. Dr. Sumter, Allen Temple A. M. E. church; Mr. Howard Greer, Mr. Jerry Guthrie, Mr. W. B. Young and Mr. Jesse Childs.

Although nearing his 90th birthday, the Rev. Mr. Hargrave was active until the day he was stricken with appendicitis. He was conscious of the fact that he was nearing his goal. Some time ago he wrote a beautiful sermon and called all the family around him and delivered it. The text was Matt. 7:13-14, "Enter ye in at the straight gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be that go in thereat; because straight is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

A few weeks ago he made his last visit to his old home in Lexington, and then wrote that he desired to see all his children and grand children. When this desire was just about fulfilled, he said "I am ready to depart," and "Like one who wraps

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